

# LIPSCOMB REPORT

1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

FALL 2015



Chairman Lipscomb shakes hands with County Clerk Joe Czarnecki after being elected County Board Chairman.

**THEODORE LIPSCOMB, SR.**  
Milwaukee County Board  
Chairman and  
1st District Supervisor

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#### APPOINTMENTS

Milwaukee County Research Park  
Corporation Board

Wisconsin Counties Association  
Board of Directors

Dear Neighbor,

The Milwaukee County Board approved a \$1.37 billion budget for 2016. By a margin of 14-3, the Board passed the budget which makes significant improvements to the plan offered by County Executive Chris Abele. As a result of the Board's month-long work and numerous public meetings, the adopted budget is more fiscally sustainable.

The Board's balanced budget includes a tax levy below the state limit, borrows less and uses less reserves than the Executive proposed, and also better represents the needs of Milwaukee County's diverse communities.

We made the adult budget decisions that the County Executive refused to make. The County Board was forced to restore the County Executive's reckless cuts to public safety and to reduce his imprudent use of reserves to balance the budget.

Abele's commitment of \$80 million from Milwaukee County to the Buck's arena had a ripple effect in the 2016 budget which he tried to hide through cuts to the Sheriff's Office. But his deception was exposed during the budget process, and the Board accounted honestly by restoring \$4 million in tax levy funding for public safety.

All of the net tax levy increase (1.4 percent) results from the restoration of public safety funding that the County Executive cut with no guidance on how to achieve the reductions or evidence that the massive abatement to the Office of the Sheriff could be implemented safely.

The County Executive also relied heavily on increased use of reserve and stabilization funds to cover up higher pension contributions that resulted from a roughly \$20 million pension error that took place under his watch. The Board cut the dependence on those funds with an investment of \$6 million in order to be more responsible. The draw from the Pension Obligation Bond Stabilization Fund was cut in half. Overall the reliance on reserves was trimmed by 35 percent.

I have provided additional highlights from the Milwaukee County 2016 Budget in this newsletter. Please note that at the time this was printed, the County Executive's vetoes to the adopted budget were not yet taken up by the County Board. To view all final budget actions, you may visit my website at [www.milwaukee.gov/lipscomb](http://www.milwaukee.gov/lipscomb).

Sincerely,

Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.  
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District

If you would like to receive periodic updates on County news and events in our community, sign up for my e-newsletter at [www.milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb](http://www.milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb)

**Theodore LIPSCOMB**

Milwaukee County Board Chairman & County Supervisor, 1st District



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901 N. 9th Street, RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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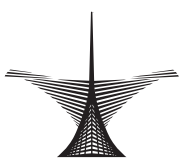
Chairman Lipscomb listens to feedback from residents at the Milwaukee County Annual Budget Public Hearing.

**Chairman Lipscomb invites you to enjoy FREE Milwaukee County attractions!**

**mpm**  
MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC MUSEUM

Free to all the first Thursday of  
every month, sponsored by Kohl's.  
County residents get \$2 off every day.

800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee  
(414) 278-2728  
[www.mpm.edu](http://www.mpm.edu)



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Free the first Thursday  
of every month for all visitors,  
sponsored by Meijer.

700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee  
(414) 224-3200  
[www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org)



Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m.  
to Noon for Milwaukee County  
residents. Excludes major holidays.













524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee  
(414) 257-5611  
[www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org)



2016 Free Days: 1/9, 2/6, 3/5, 10/8,  
11/5, 12/3, Thanksgiving Day,  
Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee  
(414) 256-5412  
[www.milwaukeezoo.org](http://www.milwaukeezoo.org)

# 2016 BUDGET UPDATE

BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES		County Executive (CEX) Abele 2016 RECOMMENDED BUDGET	County Board of Supervisors 2016 ADOPTED BUDGET	Chairman Lipscomb BUDGET AMENDMENTS & VOTES
 PARKS		Maintains funding for Parks at \$27 million for operations and \$6 Million for capital projects	Allocated approximately \$3.4 million for additional park investments, which includes a \$250,000 increase to the Parks Amenities Matching Fund for projects within the park system	Voted in favor of the additional park investments
 PUBLIC SAFETY		Cut the Sheriff's Department by \$8 million for a total expenditure reduction of \$9.8 million (12% of total budget)	Restored \$4 million to public safety, half of the \$8 million cut	Authored the amendment, which passed unanimously
 MILWAUKEE BUCKS ARENA		Committed \$4 million a year over 20 years to fund the Milwaukee Bucks arena for a total commitment of \$80 million in reduced state shared revenue	Ensured transparency by creating a new account within the budget that clearly reflects the public's ongoing financial contribution to the arena	Authored the amendment, which passed unanimously
 TRANSIT		Generally maintained service at current levels with one minor route extension	Allocated \$600,000 in funds to create route 80X, which will extend from Mequon to Oak Creek; study of the new north-south route and bus rapid transit from downtown to the county grounds in Wauwatosa in the first quarter of 2016	Authored the amendment, which had no tax levy impact, and passed unanimously
 MENTAL HEALTH COMPLEX		Proposed a \$3.8 million expenditure to demolish the Day Hospital and former food service building located at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex	Mothball both buildings until all options are studied, including sale and development of the sites; reallocated demolition costs to reduce reliance on debt service reserve funds	Authored the amendment, which passed 16-1
 EMERGENCY (HOMELESS) SHELTERS		Cut emergency shelter funding by \$300,000	Restored \$300,000 to emergency shelter funding for the homeless in 2016	Voted in favor of the amendment, which passed unanimously
 COUNTY EMPLOYEES		1) Dropped the employee Flex Spending Account (FSA) matching from a 1-1 employee/county match to a 2-1 match. 2) Employee pension contribution of 6.5% compared to 5% in 2015 3) Cost of living adjustment of 1%	1) Restored the FSA to an employee/county match of 1-1 2) Maintained the pension contribution increase 3) Maintained cost of living adjustment at 1%	Authored the amendment to restore FSA 1-1 match, which passed unanimously
 MUNICIPAL ID		No proposal	Reintroduced municipal IDs in partnership with the City of Milwaukee for residents unable to obtain other forms of government issued IDs	Voted in favor of the amendment, which passed 14-3
 LAND SALES		Allocates the first \$400,000 of land sale revenue to cover operations costs for real estate services	After real estate costs are covered, dedicates the next \$1 million of land sales revenue to an economic stimulus package that includes micro-grants and support for community based programs	Voted in favor of the amendment, which passed 13-4
 OFFICE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS		No proposal	Provided funding for an Office on African American Affairs aimed at improving the quality of life for African Americans within Milwaukee County — only the County Executive can create a new department	Voted in favor of the amendment, which passed unanimously
 COUNTY DEPARTMENTS		Submitted a cost-to-continue budget with increased funding for most county departments (including his own Office of the County Executive), but a 12% reduction to the Sheriff's Department	Instituted a 1% reduction to multiple departments across the County, reducing the tax levy by \$1.2 million and increasing contingency funds by over \$476,000 to ensure safeguards for departments if they cannot achieve a 1% reduction in costs	Authored the amendment, which passed 16-1
 BUDGET TOTALS		<b>County Executive's Recommended Budget</b> Expenditures: \$1,374,746,605 Bond Issues (borrowing): \$39,728,678 Property Tax Levy: \$282,985,125	<b>County Board's Adopted Budget</b> Expenditures: \$1,374,343,192 Bond Issues (borrowing): \$39,234,810 Property Tax Levy: \$286,985,125	<b>Adopted Changes Compared to County Executive's Recommended Budget</b> Expenditures: \$403,413 decrease Bond Issues (borrowing): \$493,868 decrease Property Tax Levy: \$4,000,000